

## PLANTING GUIDE

### 'NORTHPA' and 'SOUTHPA' Bitter panicum (*Panicum amarum*)

**Description:** Perennial, warm season grass growing to a height of 7 feet with a growth habit ranging from erect to prostrate. The leaves are 1/4- to 1/2-inch wide, 7 to 20 inches long, smooth without hair, and bluish in color. This robust grass spreads slowly from short, strong rhizomes, forming open clumps. Small quantities of poor quality seed are produced on compact panicles 6 to 12 inches long and 2 to 4 inches wide.



*Bitter panicum*

- **Native Habitat and Range:** Coastal dunes and sandy shores from New Jersey to Florida and Texas.

- **Conservation Use:** The principal use is in coastal dune erosion control and it may have a role in stabilizing other dry, sterile areas such as roadsides and minespoils.

- **Site Preparation:** Generally none required.

- **Plant Material:** Potted and bare root plants are available commercially. Freshly dug bare root tillers, rooted stem cuttings, and unrooted stem cuttings can also be obtained from vigorous stands.

- **Time of Planting:** Late fall with stem cuttings; late winter or early spring with potted plants; late spring with young tillers (when it coincides with the rainy season).

- **Spacing:** Plant potted and bare root material in a grid pattern 2 feet apart in 2 to 3 foot staggered rows. Plant stem cuttings three to a hole 2 feet apart in 2 to 3 foot staggered rows.

- **Depth:** Place plants 4 to 10 inches, or deeper, in moist soil. Plant stem cuttings at a 45-degree angle, deep enough to bury several nodes and leaving the top 6 to 10 inches of stem exposed.

- **Fertilizer:** Place one ounce of slow release fertilizer such as \**Osmocote* in each hole as material is planted, or apply 200 to 300 pounds of 10-10-10 per acre 3 to 4 weeks after planting. Apply this same rate annually in June and repeat in August, until the stand fills in the spacing.

- **Maintenance:** Restrict traffic and livestock. Overgrazing and high palatability were responsible for the decrease of this plant in the 19th century.

\* Other commercial fertilizers of the same analysis and with a slow release formulation may also be used.